

Inland Container Depots

6092. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the Private Sector to set up Inland Container depots if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government have allowed the container Freight Station to be set up by the private sector; and

(c) if so, the details of the arrangements made thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, The Government has decided to allow private sector to participate in the setting up, management and operation of Inland Container Depots (ICDS) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) in India with a view to providing a degree of efficiency, productivity and competition in the operation of such ICDs/CFSs and mobilising adequate resources for their future development.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Ministry of Commerce has been set up to provide single-window clearance to all proposals for setting up of ICDs/CFSs)

[English]

Withdrawal of Interest on Cooperative Bank Loans

6093. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has suggested to the Union Government for the withdrawal to three percent additional interest on Co-operative Bank loans; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that they have not approached the Union Government suggesting the withdrawal of three percent additional interest on cooperative loans.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Excise on Tourist Cars

6094. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to tourist cards carry an excise duty at the rate of 31.5% against the normal excise of 66% charged on passenger cars;

(b) whether tourist permits are misused to evade normal excise duty; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to avoid misuse of tourist permits for purchase of cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Saloon cars registered as taxis attract a concessional rate of 30% Basic Excise Duty + 10% Special Excise Duty of Basic Excise Duty under Notification No. 162/86 dated 1.3.86, subject to the conditions specified in the said Notification as against normal duty of 60% Basic Excise Duty + 1% Special Excise Duty of Basic Excise Duty applicable to passenger cars.

(b) A few instances of misuse of concessions have come to the notice of Government.

(c) Directorate General of Anti-Evasion, New Delhi have issued instructions to the field formations to alert them about the alleged misuse of the concessions extended for saloon cars used as taxis. The field formations have also been advised to conduct a survey by contracting vehicle registration authorities so as to detect cases of misuse of concessions.

Export of Iron Ore.

6095. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be

pleased to state:

(a) the amount and value of iron ore exported during each of the last three years, and the target fixed for 1992, State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to boost the export of iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The quantity and value of iron ore exported during each of the last three years and the target fixed for 1992-93 are as under:-

Qty. in lakh tonnes

Val. in Rs. crores.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
1989-90	337.11	882.85
1990-91	319.73	1061.32
1991-92 (April '91-Feb. '92)	272.20	1340.12
1992-93 (Target)	322.40	1562.30

(b) In order to render our exports competitive, Government has extended benefit under Section 80HHC of the Income Tax Act to processed minerals including processed/beneficiated iron ore apart from the advantage of Dollar-Rupee convertibility under the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management Scheme on all exports including minerals and ores.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Jute Sticks and Waste

6096. SHRISHRAVANKUMARPATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Jute Industries Research Association, Calcutta, has concluded that better utilisation of unused jute sticks and jute waste can be gainfully utilised for manufacture of newsprint;

(b) if so, the whether the commercial viability and related factors of this claim have been or are being verified by the Government; and